

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A betting system for use in the play of a game employing a game playing surface having a plurality of player ~~positions~~ locations, said system comprising:

an area provided at each player location for receiving betting chips;

said area having weighing means for determining a total weight of chips placed thereon;

said betting chips employed in said system comprising a predetermined number of different denominations, each denomination having a weight which is different from every other denomination and being selected so that no combination of betting chips have a total weight range which equals the weight of any one betting chip whereby a weight determined by said weighing means accurately indicates a total monetary value of the chips on said weighing means.

2. (Currently amended) The betting system of claim 1, wherein the range of weights of the betting chips are further selected so that a first group of chips whose denominations total a given monetary value has a total weight which is less than a total weight of a second group of betting chips whose total monetary value is equal to said given monetary value and wherein said second group comprises a greater number of betting chips than said first group.

3. (Original) The betting system of claim 1 wherein the monetary values of the betting chips in the system are one monetary unit, five monetary units, twenty-five monetary units and one-hundred monetary units.

4. (Currently amended) The betting system of claim 3 wherein said chips on ~~of~~ one, five, twenty-five and one-hundred monetary units have mid-range weights on x units, $x+1$ units, $x+6.4$ units; and $x + 26.3$ units respectively, wherein x is a compound fraction, assigned weights of said chips enabling the weighing means to accurately determine a monetary value of betting chips of different weight on said weighing means.

5. (Currently amended) The betting system of claim 1 further including a second area for receiving a side bet, which is at least one of a side bet and a progressive bet, and a receptacle for receiving a conventional bet comprised of chips stacked in a plurality of groups;

a ~~second~~ group of weighing means for each chip position for converting a chip weight into a monetary value; and

means for summing the monetary values to obtain a total monetary value of the conventional bet and at least one of the side bet and progressive bet.

6. (Original) The betting system of claim 1 wherein said weighing means comprises a first means for converting a total weight of chips deposited thereon into an analog signal;

an A/D converter for converting the analog signal into a digital signal; and

means for converting the digital signal into a monetary value.

7. (Original) The betting system of claim 6 wherein said converting means comprise table look-up means.

8. (Original) The betting system of claim 7 wherein said table look-up means comprises a memory storing monetary values associated with each combination of chips.

9. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein said first means comprises a load cell.

10. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein said second group of weighing means further comprises means for sequentially converting the chip weight at each chip position into a monetary value.

11. (Previously presented) A method of incorporating one of a conventional bet, consecutive win side bet and a progressive bet into a game of chance utilizing betting chips of different denominations, each chip of a denomination being of a different weight from every other chip denomination, said method comprising the steps of:

a) at least one player wagering at least one chip to participate in the game of chance;

b) said at least one player further wagering one chip on a consecutive wins or losses bet;

- c) determining the weight of the step (b) wager;
- d) converting the weight at step (c) to a monetary value which correctly indicates a total monetary value even when the chips being weighed are of different denominations and hence different weights;
- e) presenting a display of a payoff amount according to pre-programmed payoff odds which correspond to different values of the prospective consecutive wins or losses of step (b); and
- f) providing a winning indication when number of consecutive wins or losses originally selected in step (b) is equaled.

12. (Previously presented) A method of playing a game of chance utilizing four (4) betting chips of different denominations, a weight of each different chip denomination being different from a weight of every other chip denomination, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) at least one player wagering a chip necessary to play the game;
- b) determining the weight of the chip wagered at step (a);
- c) converting the weight at step (b) to a monetary value which correctly indicates a total monetary value even when the chips being weighed are of different denominations and hence different weights; and
- d) storing the monetary value for subsequent analysis.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising transferring the stored values to a remote location through a communication link.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising terminating the playoff display and removing the wagers made in steps (a) and (b) in the event that the player making such wager loses a game prior to achieving the selected number of consecutive wins.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

g) covering the consecutive wins bet made during step (b) within a receptacle during a consecutive win play period.

16. (Previously presented) (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising:

h) uncovering the bet covered during step (g) when either a player has achieved a number of consecutive wins equal to a selected number or when a player loses a game prior to achieving the selected number of consecutive wins.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising flashing said display generated during step (e) when a player having made the bet of step (a) has won a number of consecutive games equal to the selected wins number.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of flashing said display further includes making an audible alarm contemporaneously with flashing of said display.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising ;

- (g) determining the weight of the chip wagered in step (a);
- (h) converting the weight of the chip determined in step (g) into a monetary value; and
- (i) storing the value at step (h) for subsequent analysis.

20. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein step (d) further comprises generating an analog signal representing the weight determination and step (e) further comprises converting the analog signal into a digital format signal and determining monetary value using the digital signal.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein at least two chips are wagered at step (b) and further comprising :

- (j) performing steps (g) and (h) for each chip in sequential fashion; and
- (k) summing the monetary values obtained to determine the total monetary value.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein at least two chips are wagered at step (a) and further comprising :

- (g) determining a total weight of the chips wagered during step (a); and
- (h) determining the monetary value of the total weight obtained in step (g).

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising employing a look-up table to convert total weight into total monetary values.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising :

(i) converting the total weight to into an analog signal and converting the analog signal into a digital signal for use at step (h).

25. (Original) Betting apparatus, comprising:

a predetermined number of betting chips each representing different monetary values, the weight of each chip of a given monetary value being different from the weight of every other chip of different monetary value;

a chip receptacle;

means for detecting a presence and a weight of a chip placed in said receptacle;

means responsive to said weight detecting means for determining a monetary value associated with said weight;

display means and means for operating said display means to select a given number of consecutive wins from a permissible range of numbers;

controller means responsive to said means for operating and a denomination of a chip in said chip receptacle for generating a payoff amount;

display means for displaying a number of consecutive games won and payoff amount; and

means responsive to initiation of a game of chance associated with the betting apparatus for preventing the number of consecutive wins, the amount of the bet and

payoff being changed until either a game is lost before the selected number of consecutive wins is attained or the number of games won equals the number of consecutive wins selected.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising a second device for receiving one or more chips representing a conventional bet;

means for detecting the presence and weight of a chip placed on said second chip device;

means responsive to said weight detecting means for determining a monetary value associated with said weight; and

means for accumulating said monetary bet values for subsequent analysis.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein at least two chips are placed in said receptacle, said means for weighing includes means for sequentially determining the weight of each chip.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said monetary determining means further includes means for summing the monetary values of said at least two chips.

29. (Previously presented) In combination, chips representing monetary values and weighing apparatus for receiving one or more chips to determine their total monetary values, comprising:

said chips each having a weight representing a given monetary value, a weight of chips of a given monetary value being different from a weight of chips of a different monetary value; and

wherein a total weight of chips of a given monetary value which equals the monetary value of a higher monetary value chip is different from a weight of a single chip of said higher monetary values;

a device for receiving at least one chip;

means for detecting a presence and a weight of at least one chip placed upon said detecting and weighing means;

means responsive to said weight detecting means for determining a monetary value associated with said weight; and

means for storing the monetary value for subsequent analysis.

30. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 29 wherein all of said chips, regardless of weight, are the same size.

31. (Original) The combination of claim 29 wherein the weights of the chips are selected so that the total number of chips being weighed at one time can be only one monetary value.

32. (Original) The combination of claim 29 further comprising communication means for transferring values in said storing means to a remote location.

33. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 29 further comprising:
means for receiving an identifying member possessed by a player inserting an identifying member into said means for receiving, said identifying member containing player data identifying the holder thereof, said means for receiving including means for storing said player data; and
means for associating betting information stored in said storing means with the player data of the player who developed said betting information.

34. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 33 wherein said identifying member has a magnetic surface for storing player data.

35. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 34 wherein said means for receiving includes means for reading player data stored in said magnetic surface.

36. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 29 further comprising means at each player's location for receiving a progressive jackpot bet; and
communication means for coupling all tables within a given region participating in said progressive jackpot bet to transfer betting information and consecutive win information relating to the progressive jackpot bet to a given location for monitoring and controlling the progressive jackpot bet.

37. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 36 wherein said means for receiving a progressive jackpot bet comprises a progressive jackpot recess and sensing means for sensing a presence of a chip in said progressive jackpot recess.

38. (Currently amended) A betting unit comprising:

a chip receptacle;

a transparent cover moveable between a first position above said chip receptacle and second position displaced from said chip receptacle;

a housing for said chip receptacle having an opening above said chip receptacle and a surrounding marginal lip extending inwardly from said opening;

elevator means for movably supporting said chip receptacle between an upper and a lower position respectively closer to and further away from said housing opening;

drive means;

first means responsive to operation of said drive means for moving said cover between said first and second positions;

second means responsive to operation of said drive means for moving said elevator means between said upper and lower positions, said first and second means being so interrelated as to lower said chip receptacle when said cover is being moved to said first position, raise said elevator when said cover reaches said first position, to press a marginal notch in said cover into engagement with the marginal lip of the housing and lower the elevator to provide clearance for said cover when being moved from said first position to said second position; and

said chip receptacle including a weighing sensor for determining a weight of one or more betting chips a chip placed thereon, said weighing sensor comprising means for accurately determining the weight of said betting chips employed in said system when said chips comprise a predetermined number of different denominations, each denomination having a weight which is different from every other denomination and being selected so that no combination of betting chips have a total weight range which equals the weight of any one betting chip whereby a weight determined by said weighing means accurately indicates a total monetary value of the chips on said weighing means and wherein the range of weights of the betting chips are further selected so that a first group of chips whose denominations total a given monetary value has a total weight which is less than a total weight of a second group of betting chips whose total monetary value is equal to said given monetary value and wherein said second group comprises a greater number of betting chips than said first group.

39. (Currently amended) A chip receptacle for use in a betting apparatus for proving a bet in a game of chance, comprising:

a housing having an opening;

a chip receptacle mounted in said housing and beneath said opening;

elevator means for raising and lowering said chip receptacle;

a carrier frame moveable between a first position between said chip receptacle and said opening and a second position displaced therefrom, the path of movement of said carrier being substantially perpendicular to the path of movement of said elevator means;

a transparent cover supported by and moveable with said carrier;

a drive source;

first means responsive to said drive source for moving said carrier between said first and second positions;

second means moveable by said drive source for raising and lowering said elevator means, whereby said elevator means is lowered when said carrier moves from said second position towards said first position and is thereafter raised to lift said cover from said carrier and urge a central portion of said carrier into said opening when said carrier has reached said second position; and

said chip receptacle having a weighing sensor for determining a weight of one or more betting chips ~~a chip~~ placed thereon, said weighing sensor comprising means for accurately determining the weight of said betting chips employed in said system when said chips comprise a predetermined number of different denominations, each denomination having a weight which is different from every other denomination and being selected so that no combination of betting chips have a total weight range which equals the weight of any one betting chip whereby a weight determined by said weighing means accurately indicates a total monetary value of the chips on said weighing means and wherein the range of weights of the betting chips are further selected so that a first group of chips whose denominations total a given monetary value has a total weight which is less than a total weight of a second group of betting chips whose total monetary value is equal to said given monetary value and wherein said second group comprises a greater number of betting chips than said first group..

40. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the game of chance is blackjack and further including the steps of:

- g) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);
- h) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (a) responsive to the indication provided at step (d);
- i) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;
- j) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players;
- k) providing a Loss button at a player's location of a player who has performed step (a) and has lost a game;
- l) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has lost a game; and
- m) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (l) and, removing the wager made by said player during step (a).

41. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the game of chance is blackjack and further including the steps of:

- g) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);
- h) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (a) responsive to the indication provided at step (e);

i) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

j) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players;

k) providing a Push button at each player's position; and

l) operating a Push button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has tied a game to omit the tied game from the consecutive wins accumulation and permit play to continue as though the tied game never occurred.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the game of chance is poker and further including the steps of:

g) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed steps (a) and (b);

h) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (b) responsive to the indication provided at step (e);

i) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and a dealer with a given number of cards;

j) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players;

k) providing a Loss button at a player's position;

l) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (b) and has lost a game; and

m) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (l) and, removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the game of chance is craps and further including the steps of:

g) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players at an end of a game; and

h) providing a Loss button at each player's position; and

i) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has lost a game; and

j) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (i) and removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

44. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the game of chance is baccarat and further including the steps of:

g) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);

h) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (b) responsive to the indication provided at step (f);

i) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

j) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players;

- k) providing a Loss button at each player's position; and
- l) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (b) and has lost a game; and
- m) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (l) and removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the game of chance is roulette and further including the steps of:

- g) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);
- h) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (b) responsive to the indication provided at step (f);
- i) operating a roulette wheel;
- j) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players;
- k) providing a Loss button at each player's position;
- l) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (b) and has lost a game; and
- m) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (l) and removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

46-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently amended) A method of incorporating one of a consecutive win (or loss) side bet into a game of chance utilizing betting chips of different denominations, a weight of each different chip denomination being different from weight of every other chip denomination, said method comprising the steps of :

(a) at least one player wagering at least one chip to participate in the game of chance;

(b) said player making the wager of step (a) further wagering at least one chip or said side bet;

(c) determining the weight of the chip wagered at step (b);

(d) converting the weight determined in step (c) to a monetary value;

(e) presenting a payoff amount according to a number of consecutive wins (or losses) achieved by the player making the bet and based on pre-programmed payoff odds which correspond to number of consecutive wins (or losses); and

(f) paying the player when the player has achieved a number of consecutive wins (or losses) regardless of whether the player has selected a specific number of consecutive wins at a predetermined payoff amount or is attempting to win without pre-selecting a given number of wins for a payoff determined by the number of consecutive wins rather than having any relationship to a predetermined number of wins selected by the player; and

(g) associating a marker with the side bet made by the player each time the player making the side bet at step (b) achieves another consecutive win (or loss) to identify the current number of wins (or losses);

wherein the weight of said chips in step (a) and (b) are determined by a weighing sensor comprising means for accurately determining the weight of said betting chips employed in said system when said chips comprise a predetermined number of different denominations, each denomination having a weight which is different from every other denomination and being selected so that no combination of betting chips have a total weight range which equals the weight of any one betting chip whereby a weight determined by said weighing means accurately indicates a total monetary value of the chips on said weighing means and wherein the range of weights of the betting chips are further selected so that a first group of chips whose denominations total a given monetary value has a total weight which is less than a total weight of a second group of betting chips whose total monetary value is equal to said given monetary value and wherein said second group comprises a greater number of betting chips than said first group.

50. (Original) The method of claim 49 further comprising: (g) placing a marker upon the side bet each time a player making the side bet at step (b) achieves another consecutive win (or loss).

51. (Previously presented) The chip receptacle of claim 38 wherein the chip receptacle is a recess generally conforming to a shape of perimeter of a chip for accommodating a chip,

said sensor having a member protruding through an opening at a bottom of the recess for sensing weight of a chip in said recess.

52. (Previously presented) The chip receptacle of claim 51 wherein said receptacle has an extended finger-receiving portion to facilitate removal of a chip from said recess.

53. (Previously presented) The chip receptacle of claim 38 wherein said chip receptacle has a plurality of recesses each for receiving a chip,
said weighing sensor comprising a plurality of sensor members provided for each of said recesses to determine a chip weight of a chip in each recess.

54. (Previously presented) A chip receptacle according to claim 38 further comprising:
means for operating said sensor at periodic intervals during a play of a game and
means for providing an alert signal when a difference between two successive weighings is greater than a given value.

55. (Previously presented) The betting system of claim 1 wherein:
there are at least four (4) denominations of betting chips, each lower denomination chip having a value which divides evenly into all higher denominations and wherein a number of chips of each denomination needed to equal the denomination of a single one of the chips of the higher denominations, except for that denomination which is greater than all of the other denominations, is greater in weight than a chip of each higher denomination.

56. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 55 wherein each weight is given in grams.

57. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 56 wherein each possible combination of chips is at least 0.10 grams different from any other possible combination to facilitate accurate weighing operations by the weighing means.

58. (Previously presented) The betting system of claim 1 wherein a weight of each betting chip is a compound fraction.

59. (Previously presented) The betting system of claim 4 wherein x is a compound fraction.

60. (Previously presented) The betting system of claim 4 wherein a total number of betting chips received by said weighing means lies in a range of one (1) to twenty-five (25) chips.

61. (Previously presented) The betting system of claim 60 wherein the monetary values of the betting chips lie in a range of from one(1) to one-hundred (100) monetary units.

62. (Previously presented) The betting system of claim 61 wherein the monetary units are dollars.

63. (Previously presented) The betting system of claim 12 wherein a number of chips that may be weighed at one time is no greater than twenty-five (25).

64. (Previously presented) The betting system of claim 12 wherein a number of chips that may be weighed at one time is preferably greater than four (4).